A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, February 28. 1712.

THE Wisdom of Providence is in nothing more conspicuous, than in the frequent Expressions of its Sovereignty and Omnipotence at such Seasons, when the Designs of furious Men would put the Creation into Convulsions, and carry their Projects to a height inconsistent with the Honour and Majesty of Heaven to suffer.

In these Junctures God is often pleas'd to take the Reins of Government into his own Hands, to check the Great Monsters of this World in their full Career, to make all the Nations pay Homage to his Supreme Authority, and give occasion to his People to Triumph in those Exalted Words of the Sacred Text, *Hallelujah, for the Lord God Omnipotent Reigneth.* Revelat. 19. 6.

Innumerable Instances of this are to be found in History, both Sacred and Prophane; when Monstrous Tyrants and Conquering Heroes have been cut off by the immediate Hand of Heaven, in the highest of their Triumphs, and in the full course of their Victories, when they have Exalted themselves above God, and set themselves to pull down his Church; the Scripture is full of these, and I cannot think it good Manners, to remind you of what you ought to be suppos'd daily conversant with, at least those

those few who read Bibles, in an Age, when that Book is under so general a Contempt; *Herod*, *Senacherib*, *Haman*, and many others, will occur to your Thoughts immediately.

But to return to Prophane History; *Alexander* the Great, *Tamerlane* the *Scythian*, *Solyman* the Magnificent, when by their Conquests they were become a Terror to the World, Heaven said, *It is enough*, hither shalt thou go and no farther, and Snatching them from the Pinnacle of what they call'd their Glory, laid their Heads in the Dust.

Others Eminent in their hate to the Christian Name, and furiously breathing Death and Slaughter to the Christian World, as such, when too great for the Power of Arms, and Men could make no Resistance, the Master of the Vineyard has cut short those Days for his Elect sake: Such was *Julian* the Apostate, and *Selymus* the first, and most furious Emperor of the *Turks*, who having sworn to turn their Arms against the Christian World, were summon'd to Eternity in the very Moment, as it may be said, of their Projects.

It would be endless to speak of *Nero*, *Domitian*, *Maximin*, *Diocletian*, and other *Roman Emperors*, those Firebrands of God's Church, who in the Primitive Times set themselves to Root out the Christian Religion from the Face of the Earth, but were many of them snatch'd away in the heat of their Fury, to give a Breathing Time to the Christians, that the Church might not be quite Overwhelmed and Extirpated.

Henry IV. of *France*, when he had laid the Foundation of the same Universal Monarchy, which his Grandson, the present King, has pursu'd; and had amassed such Treasures, Stores, and Troops, as the World, till then, had hardly seen; the very Evening before he was to begin his March, was cut off by an Assassin, and *Europe*, *however unjustifiable the Fact*, was thereby deliver'd from a War which must have cost a Sea of Blood.

Queen *Mary* in *England*, who had rais'd the Persecution of *Protestants* to that height, as by Fire and Faggot to destroy all that would not bow the Knee to her *Baal*; when no help in the World appear'd, no Foreign or Human Power able to interpose, but that if the Queen had liv'd, *who was both Young and Healthy*, she must have Extirpated the Protestant Religion from this Nation; but God cut her off in the midst of her Days, and sav'd the Remnant for a Foundation to the Interest of true Religion in the World.

Now to wave other Examples, and come to this great *Assyrian*, *the Rod of God's Anger*, whom for the Chastisement of the Churches of *Europe*, God has suffer'd to Ravage his Vineyard so long, has *given Jacob to him for a Spoil*, and *Israel* to him as to *a Robber*, let us observe a few Things about him, not that we have any Reason to believe he is dead, tho' *Europe* lives in the Faith of being soon deliver'd from him; but let us look back upon his tedious Tyrannick Reign.

His Genius has been fitted for the part he was to act, as *Flagellum Dei*, the Scourge of God upon the World, even above most of the Men that ever wore a Crown; a Head capable of the deepest Councils; a Temper fiery, haughty, magnificent, and to his own Subjects dreadful; qualified to reduce the Nobility to an abject Submission, and the Commons to the most profound Slavery; a Genius so turn'd for, and suited to Government, that he has rather given Measures to all his Counsellors, than been assisted by them; every Enterprize has been digested in his own Head, and fewer Mistakes committed by him, *speaking as to his own Grandeur*, than the wisest Prince in the World ever committed.

The length of his Reign has exceeded all that ever Reign'd in the World, *Aurange-Zebe* and King *Solomon* excepted, of the last of whom, some say he Reigned 70 Years: This Man is now reckoning, as I take it, the 69*th* Year of his Reign, and the 74*st* of his Age; during which Time, he has not only out-liv'd all the Kings of the known World that were contemporary with

with his beginning, but has buried the Crown'd Heads of the World, at least three Times over; nor is there a King in the World now living, who is much above half his Age, for, by the Way, the World at this Time is almoſt all govern'd *by Boys*, *France* and *England* excepted.

It cannot but be a little diverting to the Reader, to obeſerve of this King of *France*, That he has Reign'd contemporary with four Emperors of *Germany*, four Kings of *Spain*, four Kings of *Portugal*, four Kings of *Denemark*, four Kings of *Sweden*, ſix Kings of *Poland*, four *Czars* of *Muſcovy*, five *Grand Seigniors* or *Turkiſh Emperors*, ſeven Governments and Kings or Queens of *England*, beſides what might be reckoned among the Heathen Nations in *Africk* and *Aſia*, and beſides 8 *Doges* of *Venice*, and I know not how many *Popes*, whether a dozen or two, or how many more.

And that I may not be ſaid to ſpeak without Knowledge, tho' indeed I am without my Books at Hand, their Names, I believe are as follow, except the *Turkiſh* Emperors, *whoſe Names I cannot remember*.

Emperors of *Germany*.
Ferdinand III.
Leopold.
Joſeph.
Charles.

Kings of *Spain*.
Philip IV.
Charles II.
Philip V.
Charles III.

Kings of *Portugal*.
John de Braganza IV.
Alphonſus.
Don Pedro.
John—— V.

Kings of *Denemark*.
Chriſtian IV.
Fredrich III.
Chriſtian V.
Frederick IV.

Kings and Queens of *Sweden*.
Queen *Chriſtina*.
Carolus Guſtavus.
Charles XI
Charles XII.

Kings of *Poland*.
Uladiſlaus.
John Caſimir.
Michael Wiſnowiski.
John Sobieski.
Auguſtus.
Staniſlaus.

Czars of *Muſcovy*.
Alexius Michaelowitz.
Theodore Alexowitz.
John.
Peter.

Kings of *England*.
Charles I.
Parliament.
O. Cromwell.
Charles II.
James II.
William III.
Queen *Anne*.

This is a Monſtrous Reign; and if we are to conſider the Events which it has produc'd, ſuch as the total Extirpation of the Proteſtant Religion, the Conqueſt of the *Spaniſh* Monarchy, and the like, it has been a Reign of Wonders.

But now when he thought his Houſe Eſtabliſh'd and his Family Settled, having a Son, three Grandſons, and two Great Grandſons to Reign after him, and when, tho Suffering infinite Loſſes and Overthrows, he yet had Confidence enough in his own Greatneſs to Inſult and Treat Haughtily the Greateſt Powers of *Europe*, and even all *Europe* Confederated together, God has taken him into his own Hand, and firſt ſnatch'd away his only Son, and now his Eldeſt Grandſon, and ſhewn him that the

the weight of all his Government will be left upon the Shoulders of an Infant, and that *France* will come under that Text, which has always been a Curſe to that Nation, *viz. Woe to that Nation whoſe King is a Child.*

But how much farther God may pleaſe to deal with him, who knows? The Plague is begun in his Houſe, and Heaven ſeems to reſolve to Chaſtize him and his Houſe only, and let the Innocent People go free. If it ſhould ſo pleaſe God to give us Peace, and deliver us from the Striſe we make about it, I hope no-body will oppoſe it that Way; and who knows what a few Weeks more may produce?

Exit Nimrod.

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